

REMARKS

Overview

Claims 1, 3-16, 18-20, 22-57, 59-74, and 76-89 are pending in the present application. Several claims have been found allowable if appropriately rewritten. The present response is an earnest effort to place all claims in proper form for immediate allowance. Entry and passage to issuance is therefore respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

Claim 16 states "vinyl/acrylic" rendering this claim indefinite rendering the scope of the claim unascertainable. Claim 16 has been amended to change the objected-to phrase to "vinyl and acrylic". Support for this language can be found at least at Applicants' Specification page 9, line 10. This language is also supported by original claim 16, which forms a part of the original Specification. It is respectfully submitted the objection to claim 16 has been remedied.

Claim Objections

Claims 25, 62 and 79 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowed if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 26, 27, 63, 64, 80 and 81 are objected to for depending from 25, 62 and 79.

Independent claims 1, 56, and 73 have been amended to include the material limitations of allowable claims 25, 62, and 79 respectively. It is therefore respectfully submitted claims 1, 56, and 73 are allowable as those limitations along with the limitations of any intervening claims, place them in form for allowance.

Claims 13, 22-25, 42-55, 60-62, and 78-79 have been cancelled without prejudice. Some of the remaining dependent claims have had their dependency changed because of the cancellation of certain claims.

It is therefore respectfully submitted independent claims 1, 56, and 73 are allowable as well as the remaining dependent claims.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

A. Claims 1, 3-16, 18, 19, 31-50, 52-54, 56, and 73 stand rejected as obvious under § 103 based on Gordin, Patent No. 6,340,790, in view of Fox, Patent No. 4,019,301. These rejections are respectfully traversed. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the reasons expressed in prior responses, which are incorporated by reference herein. However, to advance prosecution of the present application, and without prejudice to pursuing additional subject matter in a related application or applications, the claims have been amended to place them in allowable form pursuant to the indication of allowable claims and any remaining claims have been cancelled without prejudice, mooted this rejection.

B. Claims 20, 22-24, 51, 55, 57, 59-61, 65-78 and 82-89 stand rejected as obvious based on Gordin '790 in view of Fox, and further in view of Oakes, Patent No. 3,968,561. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection based on the arguments in prior responses which are incorporated by reference herein, but to advance the present application to allowance by rewriting the claims in allowable form and cancelling any other claims without prejudice.

C. Claims 28, 29 and 30 stand rejected as obvious based on Gordin '790 in view of Fox and further in view of Swanson, Patent No. 4,092,079. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Again, Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the reasons expressed in prior responses which are incorporated by reference herein but moots this rejection based on rewriting allowable claims in allowable form and cancelling the remaining claims without prejudice.

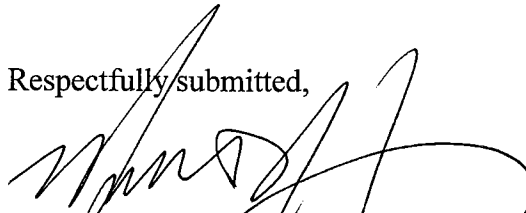
Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted all matters raised in the action have been addressed and remedied and that the application is in form for allowance. Favorable action is respectfully requested.

No fees or extensions of time are believed to be due in connection with this amendment; however, consider this a request for any extension inadvertently omitted, and charge any additional fees to Deposit Account No. 26-0084.

Reconsideration and passage to issuance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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